

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 15, 28, 37, 54 and 67 without prejudice.

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1. (currently amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

transmitting stored pixel data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

identifying protected pixel data within the stored pixel data;

modifying the least significant bits of stored pixel data prior to its being received by the video RAM, ~~thereby generating modified pixel data within which individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;~~  
and

after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received, recognizing individual pixel datum as being protected or unprotected based on least significant bits of the datum; and

replacing individual pixel datum, that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel datum.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2 1 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel data.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising rendering pixel data in the video RAM on a video display device.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein said modifying generates modified pixel data that is visually similar to the stored pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising decoding encrypted pixel data.

12. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the stored pixel data is encrypted stored pixel data.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising decoding encrypted stored pixel data.

14. (currently amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a first data bus in which stored pixel data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM;

a second data bus in which pixel data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory;

a digital filter identifying protected pixel data within the stored pixel data, and modifying the least significant bits of stored pixel data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the first data bus, ~~thereby generating modified pixel data within which individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;~~ and

a pixel processor recognizing individual pixel datum as being protected or unprotected based on values of least significant bits of the datum, and replacing individual pixel datum, that is recognized as being protected, with

substitute pixel datum, after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The system of claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said digital filter sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel data.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a video display device for rendering pixel data in the video RAM.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17 wherein said digital filter generates modified pixel data that is visually similar to the stored pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

19. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

20. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

21. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

22. (original) The system of claim 21 further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

23. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

24. (original) The system of claim 23 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel data.

25. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the stored pixel data is encrypted stored pixel data.

26. (original) The system of claim 25 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel data.

27. (currently amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

transmitting stored pixel data from a computer memory to a video RAM;

identifying protected pixel data within the stored pixel data; and  
modifying the least significant bits of stored pixel data prior to its being received by the video RAM, thereby generating modified pixel data within which individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected based on values of least significant bits of the datum.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method of claim ~~28~~ 27 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel data.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising rendering pixel data in the video RAM on a video display device.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein said modifying generates modified pixel data that is visually similar to the stored pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

32. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising [the step of] downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

34. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein the stored pixel data is encrypted stored pixel data.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34 further comprising decoding encrypted stored pixel data.

36. (currently amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a data bus in which stored pixel data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM; and

a digital filter identifying protected pixel data within the stored pixel data, and modifying the least significant bits of stored pixel data prior to its arrival at the video RAM on the data bus, thereby generating modified pixel data within which individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected based on values of least significant bits of the datum.

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~37~~ 36 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said digital filter sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel data.

39. (previously presented) The system of claim 36 further comprising a video display device rendering pixel data in the video RAM.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 39 wherein said digital filter generates modified pixel data that is visually similar to the stored pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

41. (original) The system of claim 36 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

42. (original) The system of claim 41 further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

43. (original) The system of claim 36 wherein the stored pixel data is encrypted stored pixel data.

44. (original) The system of claim 43 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel data.

45. (currently amended) A method for protecting pixel data located in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

providing pixel data within a video RAM, the pixel data being marked such that individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;

recognizing individual pixel datum as being protected or unprotected based on values of least significant bits of the datum; and

replacing individual pixel datum, that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel datum, after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received.

46. (original) The method of claim 45 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

47. (original) The method of claim 45 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by copying screen data to a clipboard.

48. (original) The method of claim 45 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 48 further comprising decoding encrypted pixel data.

50. (currently amended) A system for protecting pixel data stored in a video RAM from being copied, comprising:

a video RAM storing pixel data that is marked such that individual pixel datum is recognizable as being protected or unprotected;

a data bus, in which pixel data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a pixel processor recognizing individual pixel data as being protected or unprotected based on values of least significant bits of the datum, and replacing individual pixel datum, that is recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel datum, after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received.

51. (original) The system of claim 50 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

52. (original) The system of claim 51 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel data.

53. (currently amended) A method for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

modifying least significant bits of protected pixel data so as to mark it as being protected;

thereafter transmitting stored pixel data including the modified protected pixel data from a computer memory to a video RAM; and

after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received, recognizing individual pixel datum that is marked as being protected; and

replacing individual pixel datum, that is ~~marked~~ recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel datum.

54. (canceled)

55. (currently amended) The method of claim 54 53 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said modifying sets the least significant bits of the blue color components of protected pixel data.

56. (previously presented) The method of claim 53 further comprising rendering pixel data in the video RAM on a video display device.

57. (previously presented) The method of claim 56 wherein said modifying generates modified protected pixel data that is visually similar to the protected pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

58. (original) The method of claim 53 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by a screen capture command.

59. (original) The method of claim 53 wherein the pixel data is copied from the video RAM by a command to copy screen data to a clipboard.

60. (original) The method of claim 53 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

62. (original) The method of claim 53 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising decoding encrypted pixel data.

64. (original) The method of claim 53 wherein the protected pixel data is encrypted protected pixel data.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising decoding encrypted protected pixel data.

66. (currently amended) A system for protecting digital images from being copied from a video RAM, comprising:

a first pixel processor modifying least significant bits of protected pixel data so as to mark it as being protected;

a first data bus in which stored pixel data including the modified protected pixel data is transmitted from a computer memory to a video RAM;

a second data bus, in which pixel data is copied from the video RAM to a computer memory; and

a second pixel processor recognizing individual pixel datum that is marked as being protected, and replacing individual pixel datum, that is marked



recognized as being protected, with substitute pixel datum, after an instruction to copy pixel data from the video RAM is received.

67. (canceled)

68. (currently amended) The system of claim ~~67~~ 66 wherein pixel data includes red, green and blue color components, and wherein said first pixel processor sets the least significant bits of the blue color components within pixel data.

69. (previously presented) The system of claim 66 further comprising a video display device for rendering pixel data in the video RAM.

70. (previously presented) The system of claim 69 wherein said first pixel processor generates modified protected pixel data that is visually similar to the protected pixel data, when rendered on the video display device.

71. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are distinct data busses.

72. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein said first data bus and said second data bus are the same data bus.

73. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are distinct processors.

74. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein said first pixel processor and said second pixel processor are the same processors.

75. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein the protected pixel data is pixel data for at least one protected digital image.

76. (original) The system of claim 75 further comprising a receiver downloading the at least one protected image over the Internet.

77. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein the substitute pixel datum is encrypted pixel datum.

78. (original) The system of claim 77 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted pixel data.

79. (original) The system of claim 66 wherein the stored pixel data is encrypted stored pixel data.

80. (original) The system of claim 79 further comprising a digital decoder decoding encrypted stored pixel data.